

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Jul 2 18:14:16 1995
From: "Dick Dillman" <ddillman@igc.apc.org>
Subject: Brief Livermore Report
Message-ID: <62285.ddillman@igc.apc.org>

Here's a brief report of what I sighted today at the Livermore, CA swapmeet
in the way of BAs:

HRO-500 with LF Preselector	\$ 795
HRO-50T1 with coil set	325
51S-1	?

Plus numerous Heath DX series transmitters (except the DX-100) as well as
later equipment.

Best Regards,

Dick Dillman/WPE2VT
<ddillman@igc.apc.org>
San Francisco

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Jul 2 18:14:16 1995
From: "Hal R. Waite" <halwaite@netcom.com>
Subject: Re: Brief Livermore Report
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.950702141307.9994A-100000@netcom4>

On Sun, 2 Jul 1995, Dick Dillman wrote:

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> Plus numerous Heath DX series transmitters (except the DX-100) as well as
> later equipment.
>
>
> Best Regards,
>
> Dick Dillman/WPE2VT

> <ddillman@igc.apc.org>
> San Francisco
>

Just a comment on the HRO-500. I understand that this rig which is 1965 vintage used germanium transistors which do not exhibit the long life of silicon transistors. When these fail, replacements are almost impossible to find and you are left with a REAL boatanchor. If these comments are not correct, I would appreciate expert clarification.

Hal K4GFI/7 Las Vegas halwaite@netcom.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Jul 2 18:14:16 1995
From: WA6JYJ@ESHOP.UOREGON.EDU (Larry Laitinen WA6JYJ/AAR0ET)
Subject: Re: Burstein_Applebee
Message-ID: <950702002610.6dd2@ESHOP.UOREGON.EDU>

I seem to recall working Walt, W7ARS, on RATT for many years after he retired to Tucson. Bob, W6NRM, used to visit Walt in Tucson for many years. Believe he was on Tanque Verde Road on the east side of Tucson...

Larry, WA6JYJ

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Jul 2 18:14:16 1995
From: Michael Crestohl <mc@shore.net>
Subject: Dinner get-together at Gaithersburg MD in Sept.
Message-ID: <199507021148.AA06307@shore.shore.net>

Hello One and All:

Recently Tony Stalls wrote:

>The Foundation for Amateur Radio "F.A.R. FEST" (AKA: The Gaithersburg
>hamfest) will be held on Sunday, September 10. This is the "biggie" of
>the metro Baltimore-Washington area.

>

>There has been a suggestion that we have a boatanchors get-together
>dinner on the night before. If you're interested in such a thing, send
>me an e-mail. If we have enough interest, I'll set it up.

I think this is an excellent idea. As you probably know, the AM group was invited by the Hamfest organizers to set up the portable AM station again this year. Invited! They found it draws people to the fest. Cynthia (VE2QF) and I will be arriving Saturday afternoon and camping out. We are looking forward to this event and have decided that Gaithersburg is

just about as good as Deerfield NH used to be. Too bad its only once a year.

The main instigators of the AM station are Paul WA3VJB and Steve WB3HUZ.

We usually like to cook out at the hamfests we attend, but if there's something set up for a group we'd like to attend.

Keep us posted!

73 de KH6KD/W1

Michael Crestohl
mc@shore.net

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Jul 2 18:14:16 1995
From: "Tony Stalls (K4KY0)" <j38@clark.net>
Subject: Re: Dinner get-together at Gaithersburg MD in Sept.
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.91.950702075828.3304B-100000@clark.net>

On Sun, 2 Jul 1995, Michael Crestohl wrote:

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> again this year. Invited! They found it draws people to the fest. Cynthia
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> are looking forward to this event and have decided that Gaithersburg is
> just about as good as Deerfield NH used to be. Too bad its only once
> a year.

The two-day BARC Hamfest at Timonium in the early Spring was quite big this past year and in my estimation was close to being as large as the FAR-Fest. If this trend continues and it continues to grow, we'll have significant biggies to mark both the beginning and end of the hamfest season.

However BARC has a way to go to be comparable to the FAR-Fest. It wasn't as well organized and they made no provision for picking up boatanchors from the flea market or for handicapped parking.

Specifically, I discovered the former when the organizers in their little trailer denied me permission to bring my car into the fleamarket area to pick up my BC-375, tuner and five tuning units. As for the latter complaint, I'm not handicapped, but they were directing those who were to the commuter train "Park and Ride" parking where I parked which was as far away from the main area as you could get. Adding insult to injury,

getting onto the fairgrounds from there required going up and down stairs and across railroad tracks.

> The main instigators of the AM station are Paul WA3VJB and Steve WB3HUZ.

I've known Paul for about 20 years (since we were both small children -- right...) and that's not all he instigates! ;^)

Seriously though, Paul and Steve are good guys and really knock themselves out promoting AM and as a by-product help keep the BA spirit alive. While coming to the fairgrounds and setting up the night before is undoubtedly a labor of love, it's certainly no easy task. It might not be bad idea to stop by and say thanks to them for making the effort.

> We usually like to cook out at the hamfests we attend, but if there's
> something set up for a group we'd like to attend.

Now there's an idea. Maybe a cook-out on the fairgrounds with the AMI guys isn't a bad idea. However, Mr. Murphy and I are so well acquainted, planning an outdoors event would probably CAUSE it to rain. ;^)

> Keep us posted!

WILCO!

73,
Tony
K4KY0

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Jul 2 18:14:16 1995
From: Andy Wallace <wallace@mc.com>
Subject: Re: Dinner get-together at Gaithersburg MD in Sept.
Message-ID: <9507021838.AA09355@jupiter>

----- Begin Included Message -----

From: "Tony Stalls (K4KY0)" <j38@clark.net>
Subject: Re: Dinner get-together at Gaithersburg MD in Sept.

> The main instigators of the AM station are Paul WA3VJB and Steve WB3HUZ.

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Tony
K4KY0

----- End Included Message -----

Last year, I heard Paul running the AM Swap Net (Thu 7:30pm Eastern, 3885) on a little Heath AT-1 and some sort of regenerative receiver. Believe it or not, he was pretty strong in MA. He must have a decent antenna for the 15 watt signal to get out and host a roundtable.

--Andy

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Jul 2 18:14:16 1995
From: "Tony Stalls (K4KY0)" <j38@clark.net>
Subject: Re: Dinner get-together at Gaithersburg MD in Sept.
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.91.950702173534.3877A-100000@clark.net>

On Sun, 2 Jul 1995, Andy Wallace wrote:

> Last year, I heard Paul running the AM Swap Net (Thu 7:30pm
> Eastern, 3885) on a little Heath AT-1 and some sort of regenerative
> receiver. Believe it or not, he was pretty strong in MA. He must
> have a decent antenna for the 15 watt signal to get out and host
> a roundtable.

I don't know what kind of antenna Paul (WA3VJB) has, but to me that adds to the proof that you don't need high power to be heard, or does it. I'm looking at a Heath ad in the March 1956 Popular Electronics as I type and the AT-1 is definitely a "QRO" rig. The specs say 25-30 watts, but of course that's for CW, so maybe by modulating that big 6L6, it did drop it to 15.

I recall somebody (Heath?) making a companion modulator for the AT-1, but and there's no mention of one in this ad.

73,
Tony
K4KY0

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Jul 2 18:14:16 1995
From: jproc@worldlinx.com
Subject: ET-8022A Transmitter
Message-ID: <Chameleon.4.01.2.950702122832.jproc@>

Dear BA's,

Does anyone have information on the RCA ET-8022A emergency lifeboat transmitter made during the 1940's?

Regards,

Jerry Proc VE3FAB
E-mail: jproc@worldlinx.com
Radio Restoration Volunteer
HMCS Haida Toronto, Ontario

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Jul 2 18:14:16 1995
From: "Roberta J. Barmore" <rbarmore@indy.net>
Subject: Listenability, was Re: who's more sensitive
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9507012249.A25914-0100000@indy3>

Hi!

In re "listenability," comparing old and new receivers, Mark has made some cogent points about audio. (Though I'll stick up for the poor old LM380, which delivers two honest Watts and will drive a small speaker quite well--it *is* all too easy to overdrive the input of that IC. The LM386 fleapower "audio amp" is the main villain, IMO). In tube design, a reasonable amount of power-handling ability--say a 6V6--is easier to come by, so the older comms receivers do generally have an edge in the AF stages.

Modern "brickwall" filters, IF and AF, can also be quite annoying; many of them ring badly. Even in a receiver as honestly-designed and *dependant* upon the AF filter as Heath's little HW-9, mods to fix problems of just this sort were among the first changes hams made! The trouble seems to be a false assumption, that it's "just narrowband audio" and any ol' thing will do.

Not the case, of course, and the tube-era designers (who often as not

had to turn out a general-coverage/SWL version of their ham/comms receivers) were well aware of it.

As for the IF filters, older (and less sophisticated) methods produce a more gradual slope of the "sides" of the plotted level-vs-frequency response. While "steep skirts" = "better" is very generally true, it's possible to have far too much of a good thing! Which is where I think we are in many of the present generation of ham transceivers. (In particular, response right at the "corners" of the passband has quite an impact on perceived harshness and how well the thing copes with transients).

That's probably one of the reasons why I was happy to sell my Yaescomwood; it wasn't a *bad* little radio, it just wasn't very much fun; the sound was harsh and it didn't have a very "friendly" overall feel. All very subjective, but no less real for so being.

73,
--Bobbi

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Jul 2 18:14:16 1995
From: Dave Stinson AB5S/7 <72227.1640@compuserve.com>
Subject: Miricles Still Happen
Message-ID: <950702044053_72227.1640_EHM125-1@CompuServe.COM>

Sometimes, the Boatanchor Gods smile....

I do tend to go on and on about my beloved
Command Set rigs...so you guys should be
used to me telling about them, right?
(Dodging rotten tomato).

Well, anyway...

I've had this nice rare original five-meter receiver
test set for the Command Sets and use it for alignments
and troubleshooting. It is serial #7.

With Ray Mote's help, I got a lead on a five-meter
transmitter test set and sent off for it. It was
a little grungy and nicotine-ey, but good-ol
"Scrubbing Bubbles" (tm) got it sparkling. As I cleared
the crud from the nomenclature plate, I saw
that it, too was serial #7! How 'bout that??

Sometimes, life is sooooo sweet.

73 DE AB5S/7 Dave

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Jul 2 18:14:16 1995
From: genewill@efn.org (Gene A. Williamson)
Subject: QCWA Announces WWW Home Page
Message-ID: <9507021454.AA01072@efn.efn.org>

Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc. (QCWA), headquartered in Eugene, OR, is pleased to announce the QCWA World Wide Web Home Page, available by either text or graphic browser at

<http://www.efn.org/~qcwa>

Membership in QCWA, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, is open to any radio amateur licensed today AND also licensed 25 years or more ago (there is NO REQUIREMENT for continuous licensing over this time period -- if you received your first ham license on or before January 1, 1970, you're now eligible). Included on the Web page are:

- Photos, biographies, addresses and phone numbers of QCWA 1995-1996 Officers and Directors
- Database of local Chapters (nearly 200, worldwide), including name, address, and call of Chapter Secretary
- Listing of on-the-air Chapter meetings
- Details of upcoming National Convention -- with photos, as soon as we receive them
- A few words about the quarterly QCWA Journal (we hope soon to have excerpts from Editor Barry Wiseman's new, improved Journal available to you on the Web)
- Rules and schedule for QCWA Phone and CW QSO Parties
- QCWA Memorial Scholarship Program
- Criteria for and recent winners of QCWA Awards
- A Photo Tour of QCWA Headquarters and W2MM/7 memorial station (soon to display a spiffy new IC-738 . . . THANK YOU, ICOM!)
- Links to other interesting ham-related Web sites.

Please visit QCWA on the Web . . . and take a moment to email General Manager Jim Walsh, W7LVN (jwalsh@efn.org) with your comments, corrections, and suggestions. If you administer a ham-related Web site, QCWA would appreciate a Link from your page. We're 12,000-strong -- worldwide -- and growing! Come join us! (Oh, yes . . . we'll have an electronic Membership Application on-line just as soon as your Webmasters can create it. If you have expertise in CGI scripting, we'd love to ask you a question or two. Or more!)

73 Gene K7DBV

genewill@efn.org

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Jul 2 18:14:16 1995
From: "Tony Stalls (K4KY0)" <j38@clark.net>
Subject: R-390 Cabinet Question
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.91.950702141041.23057B-100000@clark.net>

As I was taking off the finish, I noticed that the holes mounting rubber feet on the "skids" seemed to be slightly off as if they had been put there as an afterthought. Am I correct in my assumption that the R-390 cabinet did not have rubber feet?

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Cabinet CY-979A/URR  >--->
                        (front view)
Shock mounts  >--->      XXX
Skids        >--->      [-----]
Rubber Feet??? >--->      =  =

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I'm pretty sure that these rubber feet don't belong, so unless I hear otherwise, it looks like it's back to the welding shop on Monday!

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Jul 2 18:14:16 1995
From: "R. Dennis Gibbs" <dgibbs@Rational.COM>
Subject: Testing HF Oscillator Tubes
Message-ID: <Chameleon.4.001.950702132747.dgibbs@>

Greetings all,

Well, I have now been stung twice by the same problem, and I wanted to tell everyone about it since it may save someone else some time.

The problem is figuring out why an HF receiver is dead on portions of bands. In one case, an HRO-60 was dead from about 18 MHz up. In the second case, a Hallicrafters SX-73/R-274 was dead on the lower half of three different bands. By "dead" I mean the receiver goes silent, except for a slight hiss from the speaker. This suggested the HF Oscillator circuit was cutting out.

It just so happens that both of these receivers use a 6C4 as the HF Oscillator tube. I don't know if this is coincidence, or if it is a specific failure mode of this tube, but in both cases, replacing the 6C4 cured the problem. Interestingly, the 6C4 tested good on TWO DIFFERENT tube testers, on both instances of the problem!

Anyway, if you ever get a receiver that works OK on some portions of a given band but not others, test the tubes in the front end by replacing, and NOT testing!

That's my tip for the day. Have a great 4th of July, everyone!

Dennis Gibbs
dgibbs@rational.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Jul 2 18:14:16 1995
From: "Dick Dillman" <ddillman@igc.apc.org>
Subject: TS81 Lamp Info Needed
Message-ID: <70924.ddillman@igc.apc.org>

The TS81 fuse lamp in my TV-10/U tube tester recently failed. I've temporarily substituted an automotive-type lamp to continue with testing some recently acquired tubes, but can someone tell me where a spare TS81 can be obtained and what the specs of this lamp are?

Best Regards,

Dick Dillman <ddillman@igc.apc.org>
San Francisco

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Jul 2 18:14:16 1995
From: mshaum@xnet.com (Mark Shaum)
Subject: Re: who's more sensitive
Message-ID: <199507020333.WAA24101@quake.xnet.com>

Re: "Listenability", for lack of a better term

>One significant difference is how well the boatanchor (well, at least the
>170/180 radios) perform in the presence of a lot of atmospheric noise.
>Signals buried in the stuff on the solid state Woozle-Doozle 5050 stand out
>much more clearly on the BA. I don't know enough to know why, but it seems

>to be a consistent case in my experience. More warmth, a "fuller"
>recovered audio (probably because of the broader, less steep sided IF)
>and just infinitely more "listenable". Perhaps something to do with the
>softer overload/clipping/transient characteristics of tubes vs solid state.
>

I think you are close to hitting the nail on the head here. The audio stages of most modern transceivers seems to almost be a design afterthought. While there may be nice frills like narrowing the audio bandwidth to match the IF bandwidth and the like, concerns regarding intermod, harmonic distortion and even enough audio to drive a shack speaker without severe clipping seem to be ignored. And those sharp dropoff IF filters do mess up the quality of the recovered sidebands.

A few comparisons around the shack here. The absolute BEST sounding SSB/CW receiver is my little direct conversion R1, followed by the R2. Needless to say, these are fed into a quality stereo amplifier for speaker volume when it is needed (no LM380 here!). If there is any hum, distortion or crud on a received signal, its gonna be from the transmitter end, not something added by four conversion stages, noisy digital oscillators and 1 watt audio output stages.

Second in line comes the SX62, or R390A when fed through a good audio amplifier (AM reception). That push-pull output stage of the '62 just sounds real smooth on our local oldies AM stations.

Third is my much hacked FT980. With brick-wall cascaded IF filters, digital AF filtering and noise cancellation, clean QSK and all-mode operation, I have to say this is probably my best overall radio if the purpose is to make QSO's, and not try to enjoy the listening. With low noise mixers, this set will hear anything that any of my other receivers will hear and deliver a QSO. It's just not as much fun to use for ragchewing or background shack noise fill when I'm at the keyboard or workbench.

At my urban location, man-made noise pretty much evens out the performance of any of the hearing aids, sensitivity wise. As previously pointed out, a rice box that will yeild 20db s+n/n with a 0.1 uv input signal is providing more sensitivity than useful, and is likely sacrificing other performance issues like intermod and signal handling capabilities that are probably more important in a real world.

Has anybody ever done a detailed performance analysis on the R390 or 390A? I don't have clean enough signal generators to do a good noise and intermod test. What I enjoy seeing on my 390A is the near-constant carrier level reading for a fixed signal input no matter what frequency it's tuned to. I haven't seen gain tracking that accurate since I worked on old HP selective level meters like the 312A! I'd be interesting in reading how well a 390A holds up with respect to signal handling abilities, intermod and overall sensitivity when compared to other sets of its era and the decade or so

following..

73! - Mark, NE9G

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Jul 2 18:14:16 1995
From: don merz <71333.144@compuserve.com>
Subject: WTB: 20 NOS 6BE6 Tubes
Message-ID: <950702210655_71333.144_DHQ47-1@CompuServe.COM>

WANTED: 20 New-Old Stock 6BE6 tubes. If anyone of this list has them, I'd rather spend my money here than at AES. I'll take used if you will guarantee them to test as new on my Hickok.
Don, N3RHT: 412-234-8819 or here.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Jul 2 18:14:16 1995
From: "Dick Dillman" <ddillman@igc.apc.org>
Subject: Re: Yet another BC1031C owner
Message-ID: <76697.ddillman@igc.apc.org>

On Thu, 29 Jun 1995 18:25:10 -0500,
joe.selkregg@amail.amdahl.com <joe.selkregg@amail.amdahl.com> wrote:

>Also, I learned that there is a BC-1032-c version of this. It is driven
>with a 5.2 MHz I.F. and has a + or - 1MHz bandwidth. I have a Hallicrafters
>mil. S-27 with a factory I.F. output (from the mixer tube) with a label next
>to the output that says "to BC-1032"

Greetings, Joe. I'm the guy who made the original post on the BC-1031-C. I now have the twist lock connector through the generosity of another boatanchorite so I'm looking forward to getting it running.

I also have an S-27. I've just looked at mine and I see no IF output or "to BC-1032" label. Where is the connector placed on your receiver?

By the way, the S-27 is a bit out of my line, being "UHF" and all, but I purchased it because of its significant place in WWII electronic warfare.

In his excellent book "The Wizard War", Dr. R.V. Jones relates how no one would believe his suspicions that the Germans were using a system of radio beams operating at about 31Mc/s for the precise navigation of bombers over England because, as everyone knew, waves of that frequency would not bend with the curvature of the earth and thus could not be heard at that distance from the transmitter. It was up to Jones to prove them wrong.

In volume 1 of the equally outstanding BBC video series "The Secret War" there is contemporary footage of an S-27 installed in one of the bombers sent aloft to search for the beams. One can hear the dynamotor spin up as the narrator turns the receiver on and dons the headphones. And of course the beams were there, just as Jones had said, on 31.5Mc/s.

Both the book and the tapes are highly recommended for anyone with an interest in WWII electronic warfare and, of course, in the boatanchors that were then at the cutting edge of technology and provided the often decisive advantage to Allied forces.

"The Wizard War" Dr. R.V. Jones, Coward, McCamm & Geoghegan, NY 1978

"The Secret War" Public Media Video, BBC Enterprises Ltd., Home Vision,
800-262-8600/617-879-1720

Best Regards,

Dick Dillman <ddillman@igc.apc.org>
San Francisco